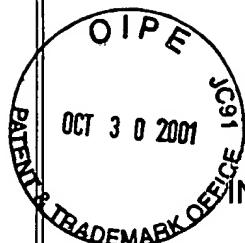


OP 2672  
PATENT

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 5905.0056



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) #17  
Maki KATO et al. )  
Application No.: 09/135,024 ) Group Art Unit: 2672  
Filed: August 17, 1998 ) Examiner: M. Good-Johnson  
For: DATA PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS AND PROCESSING ) RECEIVED  
METHOD AND MEDIUM ) NOV 02 2001  
THEREFOR )

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

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180.00 OP

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, English language translations of Japanese Office Actions received on April 5, 2000, November 10, 1999, and May 26, 1999, from the Japanese Patent Office, in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

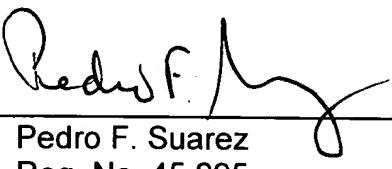
Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
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Dated: October 30, 2001

By:

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(Translation)

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